Export Processing Zone in the North-Eastern Region

790. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA.Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the creation of an Export Processing Zone for the North-Eastern region, as committed by Government, has been concretised so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when it is likely to be materialised;

(d) the steps initiated by Government for formation of export promotion councils in the North-Eastern region; and

(d) the response of concerned State Government in the North Eastern region in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce (1998-99) in its 33rd report, stressed the need to set up one EPZ in the North-Eastern region with Government assistance. The proposal for Export Processing Zone is under examination in consultation with Planning Commission. However, Export Promotion Industrial Parks have been approved for establishment at Amingaon (Assam), Byrnihat (Meghalya) and Khunuta Chingjin (Manipur).

(d) and (e) No proposal has been received from North-Eastern region for formation of Export Promotion Councils.

India's Share in World Market

791. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the share of India in the international export/import market during the last three years;

(b) the major constraints in enhancing the export performance;

(c) whether single window clearance for export/import activties and effective labour-laws may change the scenario; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE):

(a) The share of India's exports in the world exports during the last three years are:

Year	%share
1997-98	0.64
1996-97	0.65
1995-96	0.59

(b) The exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade and especially recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers in markets of European Union (EU).

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. These will reduce procedral delays and improve efficiency.

Amount Spent on Mementoes

792. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual Accounts and the Annual Reports placed before Parliament for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 by the institutions and organisations receiving Governmental assistance do show clearly the cost on mementoes etc. given to foreign delegations, embassies and others;

(b) if so, the amount spent year-wise separately by each institution; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no specific provision in the Annual Accounts and Annual Reports of the institutions and organisations which indicates the amount